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Steere nabs first in paddling event

By KEN KOBAYASHI
Advertiser Sports Writer

A lean and muscular Rick Steere, calling his effort "no great thing," paddled six miles yesterday in windy swelling surf to take first place in the 21st annual Diamond Head paddling championships, starting and finishing at Waikiki beach.

Steere finished his round trip paddling from the Ma-noa Hotel to a buoy off Diamond Head in 1:05.15 in the top event of the annual Christmas Day festivities.

During and after the Diamond Head marathon, ten shorter paddling contests for men and women were held before about 500 spectators sitting along the beach under clear skies and a hot Hawaiian sun.

However, for the four entries in the Diamond Head race, 15 to 20 knot winds made the course rough going.

"The conditions were too windy," Steere, in his third year of competition, said. "You just hope you make it."

But at the same time, the veteran surfer who placed in the Makaha International championships semi-finals, said during the race, he "didn't conserve any strength."

"I spend a lot of time surfing around Oahu, so it's no great thing," he said after winning. "I feel fine."

Steere, a car salesman and a member of the Outrigger Canoe club, was using a



RICK STEERE
"No great thing."

thick nearly 13 foot stock balsa board with a slight small skeg.

Aka Hemmings and Jody D'Enbeau, both also of the Outrigger, finished second and third respectively.

Dave Stecker, blown off the course by strong winds and waves, placed fourth.

In the shorter events, South African Saun Thomson took first in both the boys 17 and under quarter mile race and the boys 15 and under 200 yard race for top men's honors.

In the women's competition, Luana Froiseth, taking first in the women's half mile open and second in the girls 17 and under quarter-mile race was one of the

most outstanding along with Nancy Emerson who finished first in the girls 17 and under and second in the open.

The competition finished early in the afternoon with the run-swim-paddle relay race.

This event combined running, paddling, jumping, swimming, splashing and general confusion for the six four-membered teams.

Miss Emerson, Anthony Guerrero, Jeff Young and Jody D'Enbeau literally outlasted the others for first in easily the most hectic and exciting of the races.

The Waikiki Surf Club sponsors both the Makaha surfing championships and yesterday's Christmas events.

Makaha International surfing championship competition resumes at 8 a.m. tomorrow with the tandem events, waves permitting.

MEN'S DIVISION
Diamond head buoy race, six miles—Rick Steere, 1:05.15; Aka Hemmings; Jody D'Enbeau; Dave Stecker.
Men's open, half mile — Bill Mount, Bob Warren, Keone Downing, Jeff Young, Anthony Guerrero.
Men's 35 and over, half mile — Leigh Josephson, Dr. Robert Scott.
Boy's 17 and under, quarter mile — Shaun Thomson, Keone Downing.
Boy's 15 and under, 200 yards — Shaun Thompson, Ken Morrow, Kainoa Downing.
Boy's 11 and under, 100 yards — Ken Morrow, Kainoa Downing, Davey Morrow.

WOMEN'S DIVISION
Women's open, half mile — Luana Froiseth, Nancy Emerson.
Girl's 17 and under, quarter mile — Nancy Emerson, Luana Froiseth, Brenda Scott.
Girl's 14 and under, 200 yards — Brenda Scott, Leilola Froiseth.

MIXED DIVISION
Tandem race, half mile — Keone Downing and Luana Froiseth, Ken Morrow and Nancy Emerson, Shaun Thomson and Brenda Scott.
Run-swim-paddle relay — Nancy Emerson, Anthony Guerrero, Jeff Young and Jody D'Enbeau, Luana Froiseth, Aka Hemmings, Keone Downing, Kainoa Downing.



Aka Hemmings, exhausted, lies face down on surfboard after finishing 2nd in 6-mile paddle race.

Advertiser photo by Roy Ho